



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING BIG CEDAR OF \$53,000

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former employee of Big Cedar Lodge was sentenced in federal court today to defrauding Big Cedar, LLC, of more than \$50,000.

Robert Taylor Kimes, III, 27, of Lee's Summit, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to five years of probation, with the first year to be served in home confinement with work release privileges. The court also ordered **Kimes** to pay \$49,689 in restitution to Big Cedar Lodge.

On Aug. 28, 2003, **Kimes** waived his right to a grand jury indictment and pleaded guilty to a federal information that charges him with devising a scheme to defraud the Taney County, Mo., company while he was employed as a night auditor.

In April 2002, Graves said, **Kimes** began creating fictitious customer accounts, then crediting both real and fictitious customer accounts with fictitious transactions that created positive refund balances in the accounts. He then cleared the accounts by crediting the false and unauthorized positive refund balances to one or more of three personal credit cards. **Kimes** used the positive credits to the credit cards to offset charges that he had incurred when he used those credit cards to make purchases or obtain cash advances.

Kimes admitted that, between April and November 2002, he committed more than 100 such acts of wire fraud. The total loss to Big Cedar, Graves said, was \$53,159.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was investigated by U.S. Secret Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow